Low prices of liquid milk

3284. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI VISHWASRAO PATIL:

WiU the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the market prices of liquid milk were artificially kept low by National Dairy Development Board by not allowing fully the production of milk products;

(b) whether such restrictions on production of milk products such as cheese, had led to keeping the prices of liquid milk low to the disadvantage of milk-producers who are small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers; and

(c) if so, what are the finding of L. K. Jha Committee in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE, IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) and (b) Selling prices of liquid milk of two city dairies viz Calcutta and Delhi Mother Dairies run by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) are realistic. NDDB does not have any control on liquid milk prices in the country. The liquid milk prices are fixed by the State Cooperative Dairy Federations/ Millk Unions or by the respective State Governments. NDDB also does not impose any restriction on the production o'f milk products.

(c) L. K. Jha Committee, in this regard. had suggested that the policy framework for determing both production and help national self-sufficiency, while raising the level of per-capita consumption. The Committee had also stated that while we have to guard against the danger that too much milk may get diverted into products manufacture because products sell at a much higher price, we have also to recognise that if products manufacture were banned or drastically curtailed, the price which milk producers get and the thrust of the policy should be to regulate rather than to ban their production, taking care that the regulatory policy is applied equitably between the different sectors.

Market value of imported milk and butter oil

3285. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the market value of imported' milk powder and butter oil since 1985;

(b) in what manner the total value of imported milk-powder and butter oil was distributed between various imported milk-powder and buter oil was distributed between various agencies which were the beneficiaries of such an import since 1985; and

(c) what are the reasons for giving benefits to such agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K C. LENKA): (a) A total of Rs. 416.49 crores has been realised through sale of imported skimmed milk powder and butter oil by the National Dairy Development Bord (NDDB) from 1-4-85 to 31-3-92., Out of Rs. 416.49 crores an amount of Rs. 212.62 comprise funds generated through sale of gift commodities, received from European Economic Community (EEC), to the dairy plants.

(b) and (c) The funds generated through sale of dairy commodities received from EEC are pooled by NDDB witn loan assistance from World Bank and their own resources and utilised for the implementation of Operation Flood-ni programmes.